

Alberta

Dept of Health & Soc Dev

Parenting Social Service Branch

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People Need People.

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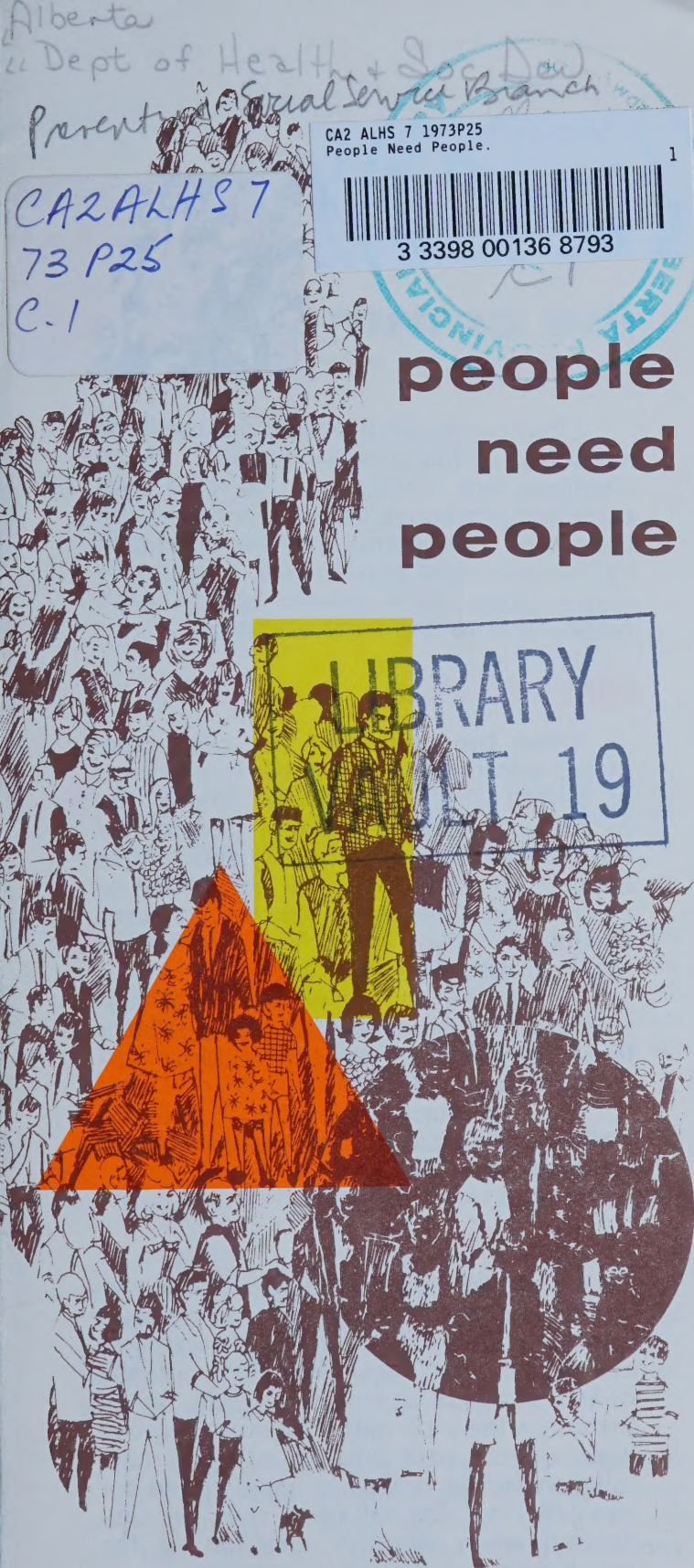
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individuals

In the area of personal development and inter-personal relationships our society must marshal public support and resources to prevent social casualties by providing the means of individual fulfillment through self-expression, acquisition of skills and adequate use of leisure time.



families

No family is immune from social problems. Some families recognize these problems and will seek assistance where a service is available; other families become detached and isolated, with the result that they and their conditions are virtually unknown until a crisis develops.



communities

To bridge the gap between community resources and problems, opportunities must be found for group-sharing of experience and the development of a sense of contribution by everyone. Positive preventive social services designed to involve the community as a whole are able to strengthen and preserve human initiative in individuals and families in our modern society.

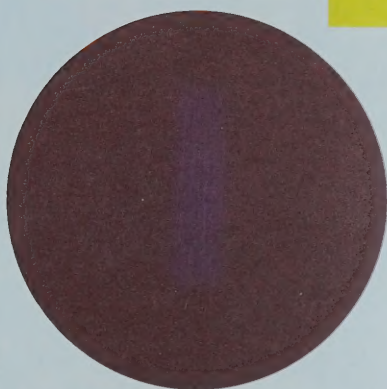
the aim of positive prevention

The preventive social service concept is one designed to develop community awareness and resources, to strengthen and preserve human initiative and to preclude individual or family breakdown. It is any activity which should be available to ALL members of a community, on a voluntary basis, for the enrichment of their physical, mental and social well-being.

The intent of prevention is to reduce the incidence of failure, both social and economic. Preventive services are seen as different from existing programs of economic aid or rehabilitation—the latter being necessary where an individual or family is unable to continue full responsibility for self-support and well-being. Prevention should act to reduce the possibility of failure and dependency.

The emphasis on the local community's responsibility rests on the belief that most communities, like individuals, have the desire, energy and resources for self-improvement. Many services dedicated to this task now exist. It is the aim of the program of preventive social services to assist, and where more must be done, to take steps to encourage and help communities establish needed programs.

The preventive social services opportunity is a positive approach toward a new dimension in individual fulfilment and community development.



program selection is flexible

Each community selects goals, plans and implements programs to meet its own particular requirements. Examples of some preventive services:

- Establish an information and referral centre to maintain a central registry of public and voluntary resources. Such a centre might also help in the co-ordination of activities to increase efficiency and to avoid duplication.
- Develop programs in family life education which would include child growth and development, marital relations, family planning, alcoholism education, legal aid, credit buying, family budgeting and so on.

- Stimulate the development of a counselling service to assist individuals and families with personal problems before these are in crisis.
- Encourage and develop community services and involvement with the aged, families, youth, handicapped, single adults and immigrants, including continuing education and programs related to adequate use of increasing leisure time.
- Organize groups which would stimulate concern in housing and re-housing programs for families with marginal incomes.

In all communities there is a wealth of volunteer resource persons and special efforts should be made to involve such individuals and groups in specific projects and to create opportunities for the volunteer to participate in preventive social service programs.

It is desirable to establish and maintain a close working relationship with as many service areas as possible such as voluntary agencies, service clubs, church organizations and government services at all levels.

responsibility rests with the community organization

Effective preventive services must be developed at the community level. Municipalities are encouraged to plan and establish preventive social services within their area. Programs may be developed by the municipal government, a voluntary citizen group, or a private agency, each responsible to the local authority.

administration

When the agreement has been completed with the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Development, the municipality must appoint a director for the program. The municipality should also appoint an advisory board, committee or commission. This local structure ensures maximum involvement of volunteer workers, resources and funds.

Within the county or municipal district area, municipalities may amalgamate to share jointly in preventive social service programs.

The province provides in-service training, orientation and on-going consultation services.

cost-sharing

Municipalities which undertake a preventive program are eligible for reimbursement from the provincial government in an amount not exceeding 80% of the deficit costs of approved projects. In all instances the local authority must approve and support each project prior to submission to the provincial government for cost sharing. Capital costs may be considered when deemed essential to the development of a service program.

the role of the director

in conjunction with the advisory committee or board includes:

- a survey of the area as to needs and resources
- selecting specific projects for attention and recommending to council a method of project operation
- receiving and analyzing programs and project applications from groups and agencies for interpretation and recommendation to council
- liaison and co-ordination with other related fields such as health, recreation, education, youth, social development, etc.
- educating and motivating the community to action on specific topics of concern
- involving appropriate persons, agencies and departments in selected areas of social concern
- consulting with the provincial department wherever expedient or necessary.



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HEALTH AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Preventive Social Service Branch

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